and D which were reserved for SCs/STs after 27th July, 1997 have been filled up by the candidates of these communities;

(c) the number of posts of Group A,B,C and D which could not be filled up due to the fact that reserved category, candidates of SCs/STs failed to achieve the prescribed qualifying marks; and

(d) the number of posts in Group A, B, C and D reserved for SCs/STs remaining unfilled have been permanently/temporarily dereserved and filled up by general candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN) :

(a) In implementation of the Supreme Court Judgement in the S. Vinod Kumar's case, instructions were issued *vide* the said O.M. withdrawing relaxation in qualifying marks and standards of evaluation in favour of SCs and STs in matters of reservation in promotion.

(b) to (d) The reservation policy is implementated by the Ministries/Departments councerned. As such, the information is not centrally maintained.

Shortage of Petro-Products due to cyclone in Gujarat

4077. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV.
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of devastating cyclone in Gujarat recently there is shortage of petrol, cooking gas, diesel and kerosene in Northern areas of the country;

(b) whether import of oil and LPG has been affected as a result of damage to Kandla Port;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure adequate supplies of above items in the area;

(d) the extent to which the pumping of crude oil from Kandla to various refineries across the country has been affected; and

(e) by when normal supply from Kandla is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) All POL related operations including LPG were suspended at Kandla with effect from 9.6.1998 following a severe cyclonic storm. This affected the product availability in the Northern Region to some extent. But no shortage to meet the demand in all parts of the country was allowed to occur.

By undertaking movement from alternative sources and utilizing the inventories, full demand of all petroleum products was met throughout the country, including the Northern Region, whose product demand is met partially through imports from Kandla.

(b) The LPG import receipts/despatches have been disrupted since 9.6.1998 owing to the cyclone.

(c) The following actions have been planned and taken to ensure adequate supplies of petroleum products:—

(i) Maximization of indigenous production.

(ii) Road/rail movement of POL products maximized to the Northern Region from alternate sources.

(iii) A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for reviewing the situation periodically.

(iv) The situation is being closely monitored for ensuring expeditious restoration of port facilities at Kandla. Most of the POL handling facilities at Kandla have already been retored, except LPG. The major distribution channel from Kandla, namely, Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline, has become fully operational and rail and road despatch has also commenced ex-Kandla.

(v) Augmentation of LPG imports at Mangalore.

(vi) Augmentation of imports of POL products through other ports.

(vii) Pegging per capita LPG consumption at last year's average.

(viii) The Railways have been requested to accord white hot priority for movement

of LPG rakes ex-Mumbai and Urban to North-West.

(d) The crude oil input to Koyali, Mathura and Panipat refineries, which is supplied ex-Kandla-Vadinar, was affected from 9.6.1998 to 12.6.1998. However, there was no production loss at these refineries. Imports of crude at Vadinar (Kandla) and its pumping and supply to the refineries are fully normal now.

(e) Pumping in Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline started on 22.6.1998 and normal pumping was resumed on 23.6.1998. Road and rail loading also started a few days after the cyclone.

Clearance of LPG waiting list in Kalka

4078. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to clear the pending requests of consumers for LPG connections upto 31st December, 1990;

(b) whether Indian Oil Corporation has still not cleared the waiting list upto 31st December, 1990 belonging to the consumers of Pinjore, Tehsil-Kalka, District-Panchkula;

(c) whether the courts have already directed Indian Oil Corporation to release LPG connections to the petitioners of the concerned area; and

(d) if so, what is the loss to the Indian Oil Corporation if all the pending list upto 31st December, 1990 of the area is cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government had as part of the enrolment plan for 1997-98, directed the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to clear the entire waiting list for LPG connections prior to 1.1.91.

(b) The waiting list prior to 1.1.91 of approximately 1600, registrants residing at Pinjore has not been cleared by the IOC Distributor at Kalka. The waiting list could not be cleared as the distributor had registered these person outside his area of operation at Pinjore.

(c) According to Indian Oil Corporation, on one occasion the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Panchkula had directed IOC to release the connection to one of the residents of Pinjore. However the decision of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum has been stayed based on an appeal made by IOC in the State Forum.

(d) There will not be any loss to IOC in the event of releasing connections to such wait listed persons. However the clearance of waiting list depends on the LPG enrolment plan 1998-99 yet to be finalised.

Suspension of oil production from Krishna, Godavari basin

4079. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has suspended oil and gas production from four wells in Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to arrange unhindered supply of gas to Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals and Vijjeswaram Power Plant etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The production from few oil and gas wells in Krishna-Godavari basin was affected during June, 1998 due to suspension of unloading of crude/condensate as a result of shutdown at MRL, Pannangudi.

(c) Presently gas supplies are being maintained as per the commitments made to various consumers including Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals and Vijjeswaram Power Plant.

Numaligarh Refinery Project

4080. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Numaligarh Refinery Project and the time by which it will be operational;

(b) the financial outlay, loan arrangement and present constraints, if any; and

(c) the reasons for delay in timely completion of the project?